
* INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX NEWSLETTER *

May-June 1989

Editor-Frank Davis
Assist - M. Felerski
Publisher-R. McCrum

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I.S.T.U.G. MEETING

The meeting for June 24th will be held at the Eagledale Public Library, meeting room, 3225 Lowery Road, Indianapolis, IN. This meeting will start at 1:30 P.M. This is one block East of Georgetown Road on 34th. For directions call Frank Davis at 317-473-8031 or Paul Holmgren at 317-291-6002.

The meeting for July 29th will be held at the Eagledale Public Library, meeting room, 3225 Lowery Road, Indianapolis, IN. This meeting will start at 1:30 P.M.

Welcome Ralph McCrum to the ISTUG NEWSLETTER staff as the publisher. I have often had all the material for the newsletter ready, but lacked the time to do all the folding, labeling, stapling, and the stamping. Ralph will be doing this starting with the next issue, and probably contributing to the content as well. We still have a lot of information about Sinclair computers to pass on to all of you out there. In fact, we welcome all new members to ISTUG. Got a friend who wants to learn about computers, get them to join, as the more members we have the more contributions for the rest of us. Carol Davis is still doing the proofreading and correcting on the newsletter before it goes out.

Anyone out there interested in having another Sinclair Fest here in the Midwest? This seems to be the place that has the biggest draw for people. They have been held now in Florida, D.C., and the Great Northwest, and all have been great shows to attend, but none with the size and attendance of the shows that ISTUG helped me put on at Cincinnati and Indianapolis. I have had contacts lately from SMUG and the Kansas City Group about there being Fests in their areas as a possibility. I have not at this time ruled out one at Indianapolis. Please let me know what you feel on this subject. I want to see these shows continue as they can be a great way of strengthening ourselves as users and as programmers.

I need input from all readers of this newsletter to help with the SNUG public domain library. Send me your public domain programs so that they can be compiled into the library and made available to all of us. If you have an inquiry, then please include a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. I hate to have to say this, but I get between 300 to 400 inquiries a year from people who do not send a SASE. I usually do not answer them, as I do not want to be paying out that many envelopes and stamps to people who should have been courteous enough to have included them with their letter. The same goes for people who call and leave a message on my answering machine and expect me to call them back long distance. Just call me back till you get me and I will be glad to talk; it is just that I cannot afford to foot everyones bill. Please do not be offended, leave a message.

REPORT ON THE CAPITALFEST

by Frank W. Davis

The first weekend in May found Carol and I on our way to the Washington, D.C. area. It was a great show and I am glad to have gone to it. Audrey Curnutt and her husband Bob did a fine job of putting on a Sinclair Computer show. I thank them for all that they did, everything down to reserving hotel rooms for my wife and I. The show was not as large as I would have hoped for, but was well attended. There were probably about 250 people there.

The event started out with a banquet held on Friday and had enough attendees that Bob and Audrey gave up their tickets so that someone else could attend it. While there we saw many people that we have come to know from previous Fests in Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and at Cleveland, and met some new people that we had only heard of before. Some members of ISTUG who were there were Ted Heckman, Judy Muir, Mike Felerski and Don Lambert.

Eric Johnson was selling used and reconditioned TS1500s and TS2068s, along with spare parts and chips for them. He had a friend there selling new heavy duty power supplies for the TS2068. I bought one of these and it seems to be working fine. Tom Bent and Jeff Moore were selling back issues of SyncWare News and Quantum Levels, along with the Quanta Library and its updates.

Mark of Sharps was there selling QLs, Z88s and PSION Organisers and software for them. He had a hard drive for the QL, and the new IBM emulator for the QL. As at every show his table was crowded and business was brisk. Many people bought spare parts for their QLs.

A+ was there selling as-is QLs and unworking ones for parts, wallets, microdrive cartridges, chips, keyboard membranes and various cables. I bought a used Cumana Disk Interface for one of my spare QLs to use, and only for \$75!

Mike Fink was there for Domino Cube selling Z88s. He had a battery powered 3 1/2 disk drive and battery powered printer for the Z88. I was impressed with the Z88. I have changed my opinion of that little, but powerful computer.

Stoney McMurray was there from the New York area selling QL software at great prices, and taking orders for direct shipment from the UK on others. He was there with friends from LIST.

Stu was there from ZEBRA and does not appear to be going out of business as so many of the rumours have said. He is not putting out a catalog, but give him a call or write as to what you are interested in. He did have fire sale prices on many items of which he is overstocked. Support him and he will still give us some support.

Skip was there selling monitors. Jack Dohaney was there selling his excellent software and giving hints about possible software. One of these was a program to allow all of the various TS2068 disk DOSs to communicate with each other. Write to him and encourage the finishing of this one. We need it.

Bill Cable was there selling his QL software. He has written much of use for QLers for UPDATE Magazine. This guy has a lot to offer for those who are serious business users of the QL.

Peter Hale of the Boston Computer Society was there selling software for EMSOFT. Many will recall his great QL tax program that makes excellent use of PSIONs spreadsheet program. He also has a good property management program. EMSOFT also has programs for the TS1000.

The show was worth attending.



Tricks Of The Trade

How to get straight columns when working with dollar amounts!

Once again, programming proves that *necessity is the mother of invention*. When I began writing my credit card payment program, I knew that I would need a subroutine that would display a 'dollars and cents' number on the screen so that all of the numbers would line up in nice, neat, even columns. I also wanted to print any numbers without cents to be displayed with a ".00" after the dollar amount (remember, TS1000's and TS2068's would PRINT 5.00 as 5). I also wanted it to fill in for numbers like ".4" to be ".40". I knew that I needed a special & universal routine to do this, thus subroutine 4000 was born.

Subroutine 4000 is written for the TS2068 and will also work for the TS1000/1500. The routine requires the following values as input before it is called:

- Pos** This is the right most column (screen position) where the cents digit is printed. In other words, the numbers are Right-Justified.
- Num** This is the 'real' amount you wish to be printed.
- Siz** This is the maximum number of digits plus the decimal that can/will be displayed and is used to blank-out previous numbers printed at that location.
- X** This variable holds the value of the row where the number is to be printed on the screen (0..21).

(NOTE: Each of the above variables is an integer.)

Now that the input parameters are covered, here is the actual subroutine 4000 (a.k.a. Display Dollars and Cents):

```
4000 REM Display Dollars & Cents
4010 LET v$=""
4020 LET v$=STR$ num
4030 IF num=INT num THEN LET v$=
v$+".00": GO TO 4050
4040 IF ((num+1)*10)=INT ((num+1)
*10) THEN LET v$=v$+CHR$ (48)
4050 LET len=LEN v$: LET here=pos-
len
4060 FOR h=pos TO (pos-siz-1) ST
EP -1: PRINT AT x,h;CHR$ 32
4070 NEXT h
4090 PRINT AT x,here;v$
4099 RETURN
```

(Tricks of the Trade continued)

*** Optional Statements ***

4080 IF num=0 THEN GO TO 4099

(prints blanks for zero values)

```
4005 LET num=num+.005: LET num=n
um*100: LET num=INT num: LET num
=num/100
```

(handles most rounding problems)

Another optional statement blanks out the print position with spaces from left to right instead of right to left as in lines 4060 and 4070. To do this use the following lines instead:

```
4060 LET e$=""
4065 FOR h=(pos-siz-1) TO pos: L
ET e$=e$+CHR$ (32): NEXT h
4070 PRINT AT x,(pos-siz-1);e$
```

Taking a look at the program, **num** is first converted to a string and is then checked to see if a "0" or ".00" needs to be added to the end of the string for trailing zeros.

Note in line 4040 that one (1) is added to **num** on both sides of the comparison. This is because of a quirk in the TS2068 such that a value of 0.6 would fall through the IF condition, when it otherwise should have been caught! But by adding one (1) to both sides, the IF condition will work as it should.

Next, we find the length of the string, determine how many print positions to the left of **pos** we must move to begin printing our number so that the last digit ends up in the **pos** column.

Line 4060 is used to blank out any previous numbers at the positions where we want the new number to reside. Let me warn you, when executed, this line and the subsequent printing of the number is *Different!* (This is why I included an optional way to blank the position).

Lines 4090 and 4099 finally print the number and return from the subroutine.

The Optional Statement 4080 causes spaces to be printed instead of a value of zero. The optional line 4005 is used to handle any rounding problems, which occur from percentages, etc. when working with dollar amounts. It assumes we wish to round up to the nearest penny any time we have a value of \$.005 or greater.

I hope this routine is as useful to you as it is to me for your business programming.

-Mike Fellerski

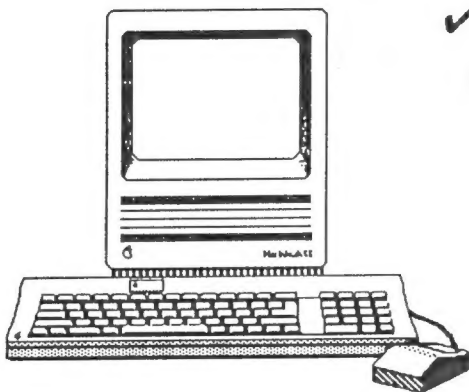
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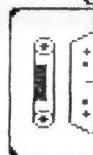
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Catalog Legend: All titles come on cassette



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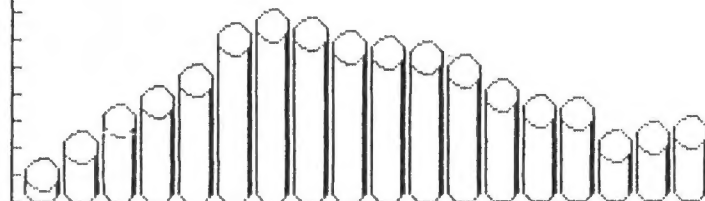


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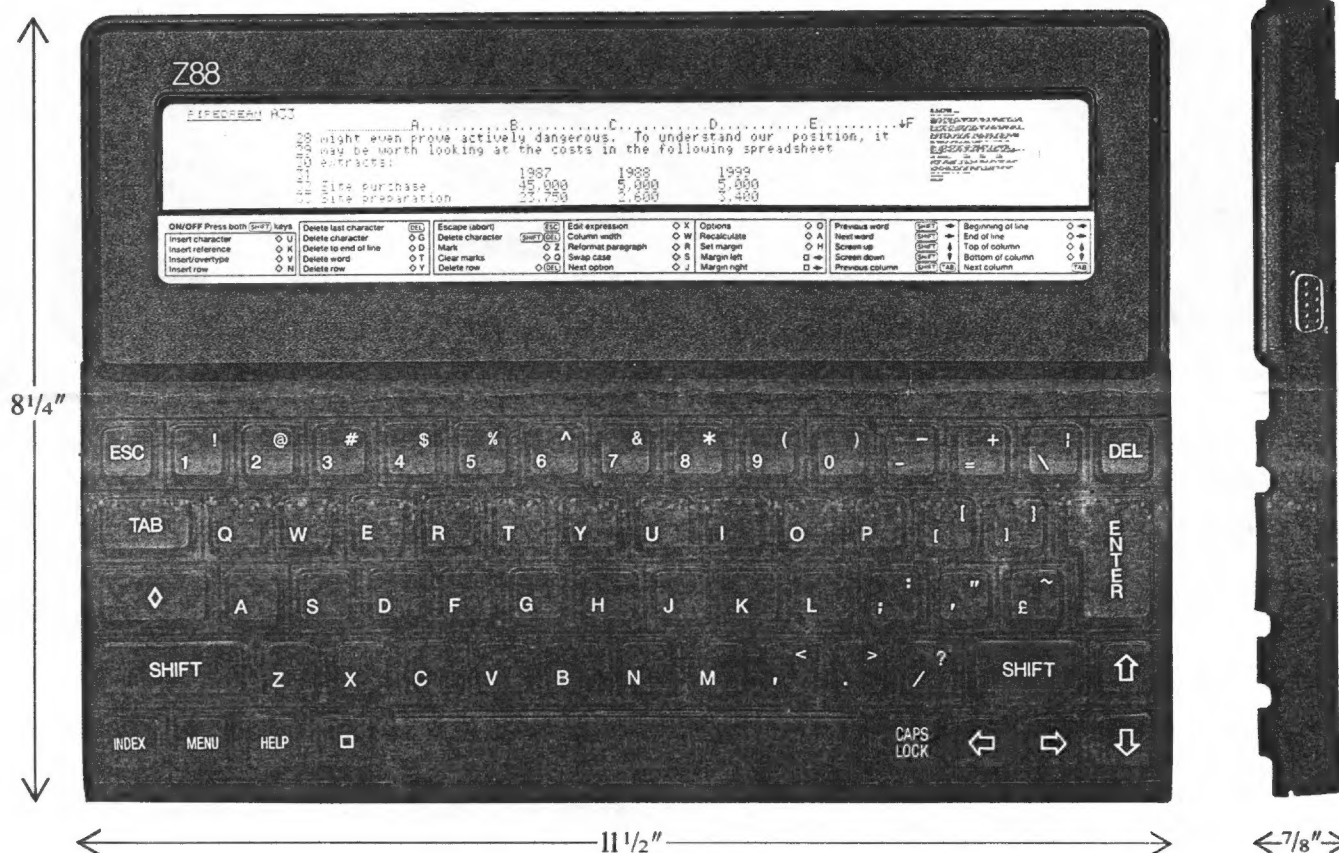
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- 32K of RAM built in, expandable to over 1.5 megabytes now, and 3 megabytes soon—enough to hold the complete works of Shakespeare.
- Permanent storage on EPROM (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) packs, available in 32K, 128K and 512K. 1 megabyte packs coming soon.
- Latest supertwist liquid crystal display provides large working area of 8 lines × 80 characters.
- RS232 port provides connection to virtually any standard printer.
- QWERTY keyboard has silent, short-travel keys; use in meetings, lectures, anywhere.
- Runs on four AA batteries. Built-in capacitor preserves data when batteries need to be changed.



THIS CAPABLE!



Z88 Technical Specification

Design Four-chip design—CPU, ROM, RAM, gate array.

CPU Z80 (CMOS).

ROM 128K containing operating system and applications software together with BASIC/Assembler.

RAM 32K expandable via 32K, 128K and 512K to a maximum 1½ megabytes, battery-backed from the computer. 1 megabyte packs available soon.

EPROM Up to 3 megabytes removable storage capacity via 32K, 128K and 512K. 1 megabyte packs available soon.

Applications software Pipedream word-processing and spreadsheet applications. Database. Calculator, diary, calendar, clock, alarms, printer editor, come as 'pop-down' screens.

Operating system OZ operating software, allows task-switching between applications without loading or exiting.

Language/Assembler Powerful BASIC.

Display 8 × 106 characters 'supertwist' LCD. Includes 8 × 80 working area, page map (shows where you are on a complete page), battery strength, alarm status.

Power 4 AA batteries provide 20 hours active computing or one year on standby.

Ports Three for memory-pack expansion, RS232 for popular printers and data import/export.

CAMBRIDGE
Z88

Z88 Accessories

RAM Packs Require no external power, and are available with 32K, 128K and 512K capacity. 1 megabyte RAM packs available soon.

EPROM Packs Solid-state permanent storage, available in 32K, 128K and 512K. 1 megabyte EPROM packs available soon.

EPROM Eraser Z88 EPROM Eraser, completely deletes EPROM data—leaves you with a blank EPROM pack, ready for re-use.

PCLINK Consisting of software diskette and RS232 serial cable, allows transfer and receipt of ASCII files between the Z88, and an IBM or Apple compatible PC. Converts Z88 Pipedream files into either Wordstar or Lotus 1-2-3 on the IBM PC or Excel files on the Apple® Macintosh®.

Serial Printer Cable connects the Z88 to any printer with a standard serial port.

Parallel Printer Cable connects the Z88 to any printer with a standard parallel port.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CAMBRIDGE Z88 GIVES PORTABILITY TO MACINTOSH USERS

Portland, Maine Cambridge North America today announced the Cambridge Z88 MacPac - an affordable way for Apple Macintosh users to take their files where their Mac can't go.

Based on the Cambridge Z88, the Z88 MacPac consists of a Cambridge Z88 computer and Z88 MacLink, a package for the transfer of MacWrite, Microsoft Word, Write Now, Fullwrite Professional, Word Perfect and Excel files.

The Cambridge Z88 is the world's most compact and lightest portable computer - only 11 1/2 inches by 8 1/4 inches (almost exactly the same as this sheet of paper) and less than 7/8 inch thick, weighing less than two pounds.

The Z88 MacLink consists of a serial cable and software which enables files to be transferred from a Macintosh, manipulated on the Cambridge Z88, and returned to the Mac.

The Cambridge Z88 has a multi-tasking operating system, which allows the user to have several applications open at the same time, and to move quickly from one to another, without saving, exiting or loading, even after the computer has been turned off. This means that the user can begin work immediately, without waiting for the operating system, the applications and the files to be loaded.

The Cambridge Z88 can address more than three megabytes of internal memory.

Maurice Giguere, President of Cambridge North America, said, "The Cambridge Z88 MacPac is the perfect travelling companion for Macintosh users."

Over

"Now, you can download files from your Macintosh and take your work with you wherever you go."

"Because of its size, its battery life (20 hours on 4 AAs) and its silent keyboard, the Cambridge Z88 can be used anywhere - on a plane, in a meeting, at a seminar."

One reason for the Cambridge Z88's compactness is that it doesn't need disk drives. The memory consists of three separate solid state memory modules, one of which can be an EPROM and removed like a diskette.

The supertwist LCD display has eight lines by 106 characters, enabling it to show a full eighty columns and a page map (a thumbnail image of the full page).

The Cambridge Z88 MacPac can be used with the Mac Plus, SE or II, and has a suggested retail price of \$799. It is available through major computer and retail stores, and from Cambridge North America's direct marketing subsidiary, Cambridge Direct, 800-366-0088

The Cambridge Z88 was designed for Cambridge North America by a team of engineers led by Sir Clive Sinclair, who has created several innovative electronics products over the past twenty years; and is manufactured for Cambridge North America by SCI Corp., one of America's largest electronics manufacturers. It is already the best-selling portable computer in Britain.

- 30 -

Mr F Davis
513 Main Street East,
Peru IN
46970



Don Lambert
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Cedar Rapids, Iowa
52404